

WOW!

Editor's note: JSC's sixth-annual Open House was a big hit with visitors. Such success could not have been possible without numerous volunteers from the JSC staff. Here is a personal observation about the event from IMPASS contractor Hazel Mann in Public Affairs, who helped coordinate the event.

Open House 2001 is history now, but memories live on. Approximately 140,000 visitors entered the gates Saturday, Aug. 25, for a behind-the-scenes look at the home of Human Spaceflight excellence.

So what makes Open House special? Obviously, the people! Our guests associate NASA with the best of the best, and Open House is the time the JSC Community showcases that fact.

So, grand kudos to all who made this event a success. To those who delivered ice and water and picked up trash. To the food service workers who fed thousands of hungry people and did so with a smile. To those who set up tents and delivered supplies. To those who installed signs with directions and times, which kept our visitors from getting lost or missing the activity they most wanted to see. To the groundskeepers who mowed and weeded the site to make it attractive and welcoming.

To the security workers, both professional and community volunteers, who kept the day safe for everyone. A big hurrah to the workers who kept the buildings clean and pleasant, and to the drivers who delivered guests to their destinations in comfort and safety. Thank you to the numerous people who stopped to help guests locate exhibits or buildings.

And hats off to the talented performers, speakers, exhibitors, artists, engineers, scientists, volunteer coordinators, managers, editors, writers, computer technicians, medical personnel, building managers, engineers, divers, pilots, mechanics, lost child center staffers, producers, directors, videographers, photographers, image laboratory technicians, print shop staffers, souvenir store staffers and Space Center Houston guides.

To those in Building 30, home of Mission Control, and always a popular must-see, a pat on the back to 250 volunteers who staffed 36 positions to answer questions and help guests navigate the halls.

Thumbs-up to the divers at the Sonny Carter Training Facility who gave guests a real "hands-on experience." And another thumbs-up to the crew of the NASA Super Guppy aircraft at Ellington Field who demonstrated cargo loading and unloading to a fascinated group of onlookers.

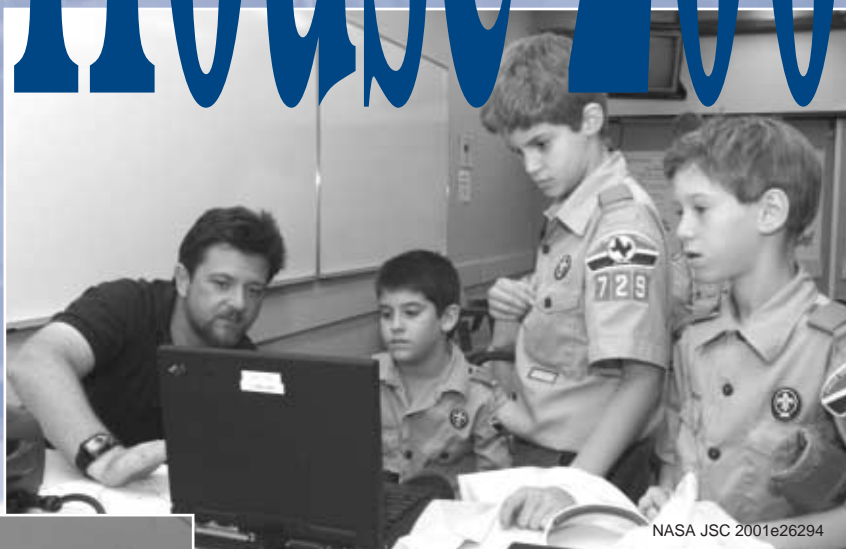
Whew! The list just goes on and on. If I missed someone, please forgive me. But as you can see, it takes a multitude of people to achieve such a successful and large event as Open House 2001.

The day held too many highlights to list but some shining moments included a live interactive video downlink in Teague Auditorium that provided guests the opportunity to ask questions of the Expedition 3 Crew living onboard the International Space Station. Building 9 hosted a demonstration of crew escape procedures from the shuttle mockup, which held the rapt attention of those watching. At the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, a presentation of plasma rocket science encouraged visitors to look toward the ongoing future of spaceflight.

At the event, a guest asked me, "Why do you all do this for us and do it for free too?" My answer was it is a gift to her for her support of the space program, our way of saying thank you.

So three cheers for you all! As someone said in an e-mail to me, "It makes me proud to work for NASA." ■

Open House 2001



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